

25 June 2012

Mr. Petko Kantchev
Chair of the Informal Group of Experts, World Telecommunication Policy
Forum 2013

International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

**Re: Comments on the second draft report of the ITU Secretary General on
the 2013 World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF)**

Dear Mr. Petko Kantchev,

The NRO, ICANN and the Internet Society (ISOC) would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Informal Experts Group (IEG) preparing for the fifth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) and to provide comments on the second draft report of the Secretary General's report on the WTPF. As members of the Informal Expert Group (IEG), our organizations value this opportunity for a multi-stakeholder dialogue and the opportunity to provide factual and technical information to ensure the discussions constructive, and informed.

The comments offered below are preliminary comments and we reserve our right to come back with further commentary on the same or different aspects of the text.

We have noted a certain number of inaccuracies in the document, leading to what we consider as inappropriate conclusions. In our comments on the report we have tried to clarify existing text and to provide additional information with a view to improving the report. Please refer to the separate contributions from our organizations.

With regards to the theme of the Forum, we were surprised to note the limited scope of the themes proposed to examine. Indeed, many delegates to the IEG have contributed suggestions for themes or opinions that the WTPF should consider. The Internet Society for instance had proposed that "Strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity: the critical role of IXPs" be considered as the main theme and core topic for the Secretary-General's report and as the focus for discussions at the fifth WTPF. The NRO, in its letter addressed to the Secretary General on March 7th, stated that the WTPF presents a "timely opportunity to address, in a multilateral, transparent and democratic manner, the means by which greater collaboration and coordination can be achieved between ITU and relevant Internet organizations". Other participants to the IEG have made extremely useful and forward looking proposals, none of which were taken into consideration by the Secretariat.



In this regards, we would like to remind the Secretariat that in accordance with Resolution 2 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), “the theme of the fifth WTPF shall continue to be based on a report by the SG, including input from any conference, assembly or meeting of the Union, and on contributions from Member States and Sector Members”.

Furthermore, we would like to invite the Secretariat to focus, in accordance with the mandate of the WTPF, on a forward-looking theme rather than (in the main) focusing on past debates. This point is crucial in our view. The WTPF should exchange views on the key policy issues arising from today’s fast changing information and communication technology (ICT) environment. For this reason, we would like to jointly propose that “Strategies for developing Internet connectivity at the global level” be the main theme of the WTPF 2013. The Internet technical community would be happy to provide substantive factual information on this issue, including on the role of IXPs.

In conclusion, to ensure the ITU’s work is informed, we encourage the Secretariat to continue opening its conferences and working groups to all interested stakeholders, and broadening participation, beyond its Member States and Sector Members, to the Civil Society, the Internet community and the research community. We strongly believe there is an overarching need to develop appropriate multi-stakeholder forums that involve knowledgeable, interested and capable people in crafting solutions that enhance the strength of the Internet as a vital tool for communication and innovation.

Sincerely,

Paul Wilson

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